

9. (Amended) The plank of claim 31, wherein said at least one plasticizer is present with the thermoplastic material in an amount of less than about 20% by weight of said core.

10. (Amended) The plank of claim 31, wherein said at least one thermoplastic material is polyvinyl chloride.

11. (Amended) The plank of claim 31, wherein said at least one thermoplastic material is a rigid polyvinyl chloride.

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CONT
12. (Amended) The plank of claim 31, wherein said core has a thickness of from about 5 mm to about 20 mm, a width of from about 2 cm to about 30 cm, and a length of from about 30 cm to about 130 cm.

13. (Amended) The plank of claim 31, wherein said core has at least one cavity.

14. (Amended) The plank of claim 31, wherein said core has a series of paralleled cavities which are separated by said thermoplastic material.

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17. (Amended) The plank of claim 31, wherein said core has at least one groove located on a side of said core.

20. (Amended) The plank of claim 31, wherein two sides of said core are tapered or have beveled edges, wherein said sides are opposite to each other.

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21. (Amended) The plank of claim 31, wherein said bottom surface of said core has at least two bottom feet or a series of co-extruded polymeric strips to raise said core from a sub-floor or substrate surface.

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37. (Amended) The thermoplastic plank of claim 31, wherein said thermoplastic material comprises at least one thermoplastic resin, at least one processing aid, at least one impact modifier, at least one lubricant, and at least one stabilizer.

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39. (Amended) The thermoplastic plank of claim 31, said plank having a substantially planar top surface, opposing sides, opposing ends, and a bottom surface, wherein said bottom surface has a plurality of channels formed therein, each of said channels extending longitudinally from one end of the plank to the other end of the plank.

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43. (Amended) The thermoplastic plank of claim 31, said plank having substantially planar top and bottom surfaces, opposing ends, and a series of elongate cavities between said top and bottom surfaces, each of said cavities extending from one of said opposing ends of said plank to another of said opposing ends of said plank.

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Please add the following new claims:

-- 45. A surface covering comprising a plurality of thermoplastic planks of claim 31 joined together.

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46. The surface covering of claim 45, wherein said surface covering is a floor covering that is a floating floor installation.

47. A floor covering comprising a plurality of thermoplastic planks, wherein said floor covering is a floating surface and wherein said thermoplastic plank comprises: a core comprising at least one thermoplastic material, wherein each core has a top surface and a bottom surface, and opposing sides; a printed design on said top surface of said core, wherein said printed design has a top surface and a bottom surface; and a protective layer affixed to said top surface of said printed design.

48. The floor covering of claim 47, wherein at least a portion of said thermoplastic laminate planks are joined together by splines.

49. The floor covering of claim 47, wherein at least a portion of said thermoplastic laminate planks are joined together by a bonding agent.

50. The floor covering of claim 49, wherein said bonding agent is tetrahydrofuran, methylene chloride, a ketone, or combinations thereof.

51. A thermoplastic plank comprising:

a core comprising at least one thermoplastic material, wherein said core has a top surface and a bottom surface, and opposing sides;

a printed design on said top surface of said core, wherein said printed design has a top surface and a bottom surface; and

at least one protective layer affixed to said top surface of said printed design, with the proviso that no backing layer is located adjacent the bottom surface of said core.

52. The thermoplastic plank of claim 51, wherein each core has a series of parallel cavities which are separated by said thermoplastic material, wherein the thickness of the thermoplastic material separating the outermost cavities is thicker than the thickness of the thermoplastic material separating the innermost cavities.

53. A thermoplastic plank comprising:

a core comprising at least one thermoplastic material, wherein said core has a top surface and a bottom surface, and opposing sides;

a printed design on said top surface of said core, wherein said printed design has a top surface and a bottom surface; and

a protective layer affixed to said top surface of said printed design, wherein said at least bottom surface of the core is thermally treated.
